(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project was accorded by the Government in June, 1985. However, the proposal submitted by the State Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was rejected in January, 1991 due to its likely adverse ecological impact. Subsequently, the State Government has requested for reconsideration of the proposal, a decision on which is likely to be taken shortly.

News-Item regarding escalation of ISI Activities in Kanpur and other places

146. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news-item published in the Dainik Jagran of 28th January, 1995 to the effect that there is escalation of ISI activities in Kanpur and other places; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of foreign agents and their accomplishes arrested and arms seized during the past six months; and

(c) the number of cases of kidnappings reported and worked out during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the news item referred to. Instances of ISI sponsored activities have been coming to the notice in various parts of the country. A number of Pak intelligence agents have also been apprehended from different parts of the country. However, it will not be in public interest to disclose more details in this regard. Government is alive to the situation and is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing up intelligence and coordinated action by the concerned Central and State Governments.

New deep sea fishing policy

147. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee constituted to review deep sea fishing policy has submitted its reports;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(c) whether the committee has ascertained the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by various sectors; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the operation of vessels under the new deep sea fishing policy is likely to affect the traditional fishermen and the marine ecology adversely; and

(e) whether Government have received any representation from Gujarat and Maharashtra Fisherman's Associations in this regard; if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the recommendations of the Review Committee is enclosed as Statement. (*see* below)

(c) Yes, Sir. The marine fish production in India is estimated to be 2.692 million tonnes, of which the percentage contribution by various sectors in 1993-94

is given below:

(1) Traditional crafts	—	36%
(2) Mechanished fishing boats	—	63%
(3) Deep sea finshing vessels	—	1%

(d) and (e) Representations were revied from fishermen's organisations from many coastal areas, including Gujarat and Maharashtra and traditional fishermen had also been agitating against the new deep sea fishing policy. In order to make recommendations for reivew of the deep sea fishing policy, the Govt. had constituted a Review Committee to examine all aspects of the matter. The Committee studied all aspects relating to the deep sea fishery sector vis-a-vis the traditional sector and environmental concerns, among other things, and submitted its report to the Govt. on 8.2.1996. Action has been initiated at inter-Ministerial level to examine the recommendations of the Review Committee. Government has also announced certain interim measures such as ban on deep sea fishing during the breeding seasons, conditional upon a similar ban being imposed by the State Governments, so as to protect the interests of traditional fishermen.

Statement

Recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy

1. All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal processes as may be required.

2. No renewal, extension or new licenses/permits be issued in future for fishing to joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing vessels.

3. All licences/permits for fishing may be made public documents and copy thereof made available for inspection in the office of the registered authority.

4. The areas already being exploited or which may be exploited in the medium term by fishermen operating traditional craft or mechanised vessels below 20m size should not be permitted for exploitation by any vessels above 20 m. length except currently operated Indian vessels which may operate in the current area for only 3 years subject to the recommendation 1 & 7.

5. Since the Indian mechanised boats below 20 m. size have the capacity to fish in depths upto about 70-90m; on the West Coast, the distance from the shore represented by 150 m depth line should be out of bounds for all vessels of more than 20m length except vessels mentioned at para 4. Where the 150 m depth zone is less than 100 nautical miles from the shore, the distance upto 100 nautical miles should be reserved for Indian vessels less than 20m length. On the east coast, starting from Kanyakumari, Indian vessels below 20m size would have exclusive access upto 100m depth or 50 nautical miles from the shore whichever is farther except relaxation in Para 4. The depth zone would also be defined by coordinates indicating distance from the shore. Distance will be determined by National Hydrographic Office/Coast Guard/Fishery Survey or India.

6. In regard to Andaman & Nicobar and the Lakshadweep groups of islands, a distance of 50 nautical miles from the shore would be reserved exclusively for Indian vessels below 20m length with proviso at para 4. Further, if so, required, the limit would be defined taking into account the need to keep waters between islands reserved exclusively for Indian vessels, even. If some portions fall beyond the limit of 50 nauticalmiles.

7. In the area open to the vessels above 20m length, resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and cuttle fish, deep sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed for exploitation by tuna long lining, tuna purse seining, squid jigging and mid-water trawling, provided these are

defacto Indian owned registered vessels. The Indian owners should account for at least 51% debt as well as equity.

8. The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account of the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

9. In order to conserve fishery resources in our waters, to protect fishermen and to reduce conflicts in the sea, deep sea fishing regulations should be enacted by the parliament after consulting the fishing community.

10. For preventing conflicts between the traditional small mechanised, larger deep sea vessels strict vigilance to be exercised by the Coast Guard. To attain this objective the Coast Guard should be strengthened, expanded, upgraded technically with the State-of-the-art system of navigation, surveillance and weaponary and properly tasked to prevent poaching by foreign vessels and observance of zone restriction by indigenous vessels. In case Coast Guard is not able to perform the task then by some other agency State or Central, would be identified to ensure that those vessels excluded from specific areas do not violatae prohibitions.

11. The Government should take active steps as well as make finances available for upgradation of technological skills and equipment used by the traditional fishermen, for mechanised boats and the Indian deep sea fishing fleet so that each can effectively fish in the areas reserved for it by law or usege. Duty concessions and concessional finance should be made available for both navigational as well as fishing equipment aimed at competence upgradation to the state-of-the-art level to all the three categories with priority to the traditional sector.

12. Traditional and small mechanised sector, should be assisted by adequate regular supply of fuel and by providing HSD and kerosene and by providing subsidy taking into account the benefits given to deep sea fishing vessels.

13. All types of marine fisheries should come under one Ministry. The Government should also consider setting up a Fishery Authority of India to function in the manner in which such authorities set up in other countries function and to be responsible for formulation of policies as well as their implementation.

14. The Fishery Survey of India should also be technically upgraded by induction of the modern technology and equipment so that it can identify and map the location of all types of fish, study impact of different technologies and ecological changes. There should be proper coordination and cooperation between the National Remote Sensing Agencies and the Fishery of India for this purpose.

15. The Govt. should given priority to the creation of the infrastructure needed for preventing wastage of fishery resources which the occurring through throwing away by-catch. This may be achieved by providing a chain of cold storages, ice-factories, fish processing facilities, fish meal and feed manufacturing for value addition to the products of fishermen and their cooperatives.

16. Infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours for the existing the modern upgraded craft along East and West Coasts as well as in island groups of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands may be created on priority basis.

17. Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels for marketing and other related activities.

18. The Govt. should give priority to training fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels

and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

19. Govt. should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/effluents/ sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

20. Govt. should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

21. The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

Proposals from Assam for establishment of food processing Industries

148. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals from Government of Assam are pending with the Ministry for establishment of Food Processing Industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of maturity/execution of each of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Most food processing industries except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sectors have been delicenced. No approval is required from this Ministry for setting up these industries by the domestic entrepreneurs.

Since liberalisation, till December, 1995 four Industrial Entrepreneur memoranda involving an investment of Rs. 190 crores and employment of 205 persons have been filed for setting up food processing industries in the State of Assam. In addition, one approval has already been granted for setting up a food processing industry in Assam involving an investment of Rs. 15 crores including foreign investment of Rs. 1 crore and employment of 347 persons.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also provided financial assistance for setting up of various food processing industries in Assam. While some have been implemented most are in various stages of implementation. Action in respect of two proposals received from Assam seeking financial assistance has been initiated.

Rural Telephone Exchanges in Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi Districts

149. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICAIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many rural exchanges have been set up during the last five years in Bihar especially in Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi districrs;

(b) whether it is a fact that rural exchanges were proposed to be set up as back as in 1992 in the village named Kurlaiah in Aurar Block and Jamalabad Ashram, Musehri and Rajkhand in the District of Muzaffarpur; and

(c) the reasons for not installing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yearwise details for the last five years are given in the annexed statement. (*see* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.